

## **FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) held a press conference on the National Mall to demonstrate the dangers of sparklers and some illegal fireworks, including M-80s and salutes. Improper use of fireworks or use of illegal fireworks can result in deaths, blindings, amputations and severe burns.

"Detonating these devices is best left to the professionals, because even fireworks that seem innocent can cause serious injury," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "For example, sparklers, that are often used by young children, burn at temperatures of 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit."

"Fireworks can add fun and excitement to a holiday celebration, but they can also turn a backyard celebration into a rush to the emergency room," said Brown.



CPSC advises consumers to leave fireworks to the professionals. But if fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water or a hose handy in case of a malfunction or fire.